

NEGLIGENCE CLAIMS-LIABILITY OF EMPLOYEES

The Secretary of Agriculture is without authority to require an employee to reimburse the Government for a payment made in settlement of a claim for property damage resulting from the employee's negligence.

The Congress has by general legislation progressively assumed liability to persons sustaining injuries through negligence of officers and employees of the Government and in doing so has not made provision for the assertion of claims by the Government against the officers and employees causing the damage.

In the absence of statutory authority, express or implied, an officer or employee of the Government may not be administratively deprived of his lawful compensation.